

Remarks:

Claims 1-33 were pending in the present application. Claims 31 and 32 are canceled and, claims 34 and 35 are added.

The Examiner requires restriction between the following species of invention:

Species I, Decking systems and planks with anchors where the anchors are less than the width of the joist/ support members (Figures 1 and 2);

Species II, Decking systems of plans with anchors where the anchors extend the width of the planks (Figures 5 and 6); and

Species III, Systems of planar members with anchors, which form a fence (Figure 11).

Applicants elect Species I, Figures 1 and 2, with traverse. Applicants respectfully request modification of the definition of Species I to read "Decking systems and planks with anchors where the anchors are less than or about the width of the joist/ support members (Figures 1 and 2)", since FIG. 2 shows anchors which are about the width of the joist/support members.

Applicants' traversal is only with respect to the textual definition of the species that includes FIGS. 1 and 2. Applicants do not object to the grouping of the figures in Species I to III.

Claims 1-14, 17-30 and 33-35 read on the elected Species I.

The Examiner requires further election of distinct anchor members:

Figures 3A, 3B;

Figure 6;

Figure 7;

Figure 8, and;

Figure 10.

Applicants elect the species of FIGS. 3A and 3B. This election is made without traverse. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 19-35 read on the species of FIGS. 3A and 3B.

Non-elected claims 31 and 32 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 34 and 35 are added. Support for claim 34 is provided in FIG. 2, which shows anchors about the width of the joists. Support for claim 35 is added in paragraph [0034].

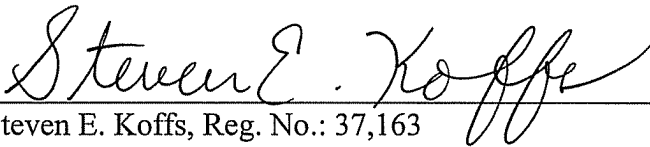
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

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